Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: August – October 2017 Issue date: 20.07.17

The forecast presented here is for August and the average of the August-September-October period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for August will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 1 August 2017.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical forecast systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For August and August-September-October above-average temperatures are more probable than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for August-September-October will fall into the coldest of our five categories is around 5% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is between 50 and 55% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

There is currently a lack of strong global drivers of predictability that have a clear bearing on weather patterns across the UK. Despite this, temperatures globally are very warm, and this backdrop increases the likelihood of UK temperatures being above-average.

In the tropical Pacific Ocean, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is likely to remain in a neutral phase throughout the outlook period. It is therefore not expected to influence the UK in the next three months.

In the North Atlantic Ocean, sea surface temperatures around and to the west of the UK remain above normal, increasing the chances of higher-than-average temperatures through the period. The northwestern part of the North Atlantic Ocean has temperatures that are below normal, which moderately increases the probability of high pressure and above-average temperatures over northern Europe in summer.

The Met Office long-range prediction system, along with systems from other centres around the world, shows that there is only a very slightly increased likelihood of higher-than-normal pressure on average during the outlook period. Nevertheless, there is an increased probability for warmer-than-average conditions (see figure T2), consistent with the very high current level of warmth globally. This is also consistent with the year so far, for which average temperature in the UK has been more than a degree above the long-term average (see figure T1). It is worth noting, however, that there remains a realistic chance of below-average temperatures (see figure T2), if unfavourable weather patterns occur.

Fig T1

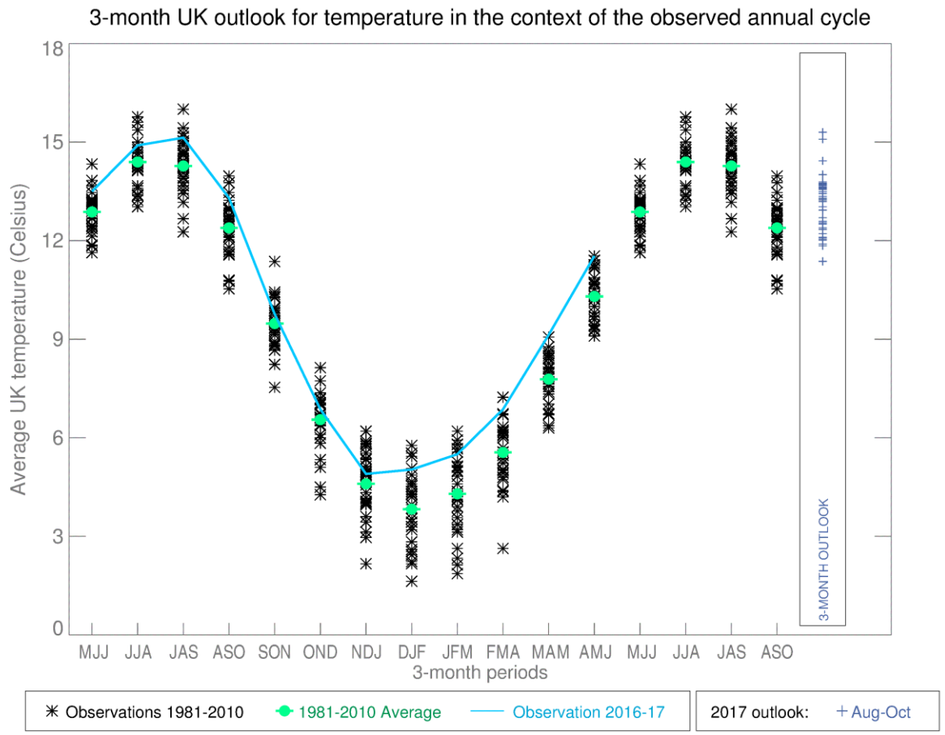

3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of the observed annual cycle
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
3-month periods
MJJ JJA JAS ASO SON OND NDJ DJF JFM FMA MAM AMJ MJJ JJA JAS ASO
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observations 1981-2010
1981-2010 Average
Observation 2016-17
2017 outlook: Aug-Oct

Fig T2

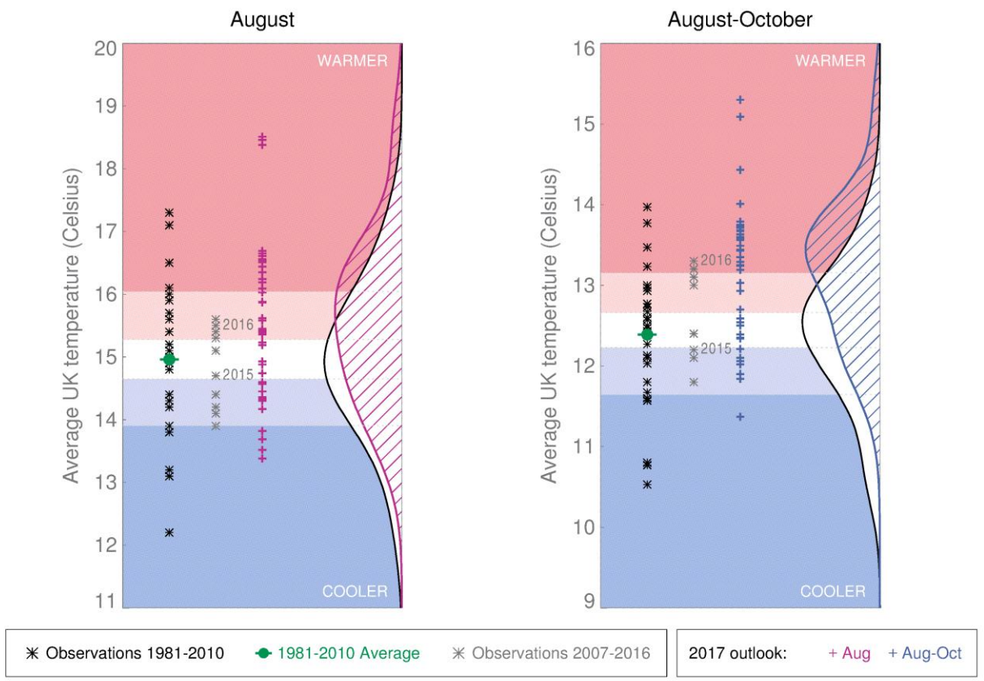
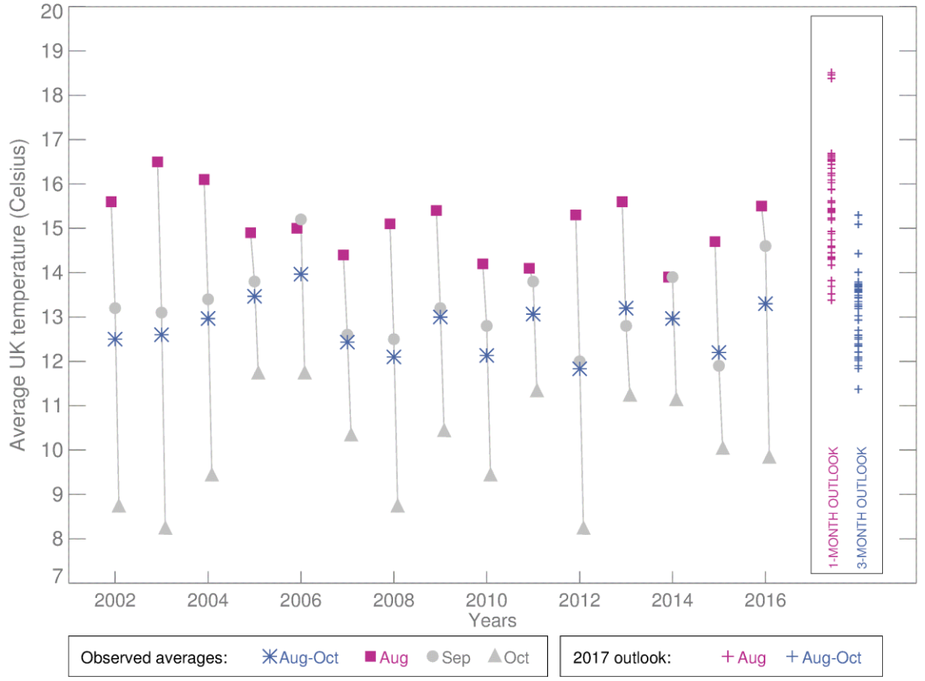


Fig T3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
Years
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observed averages: Aug-Oct Aug Sep Oct
2017 outlook: Aug Aug-Oct

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-5-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.